

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Bulgaria

SUBJECT Marshal Tito's Efforts at Rapprochement
with the Soviet Union

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1. In mid-September, Marshal Tito sent a personal emissary to Sofia, Bulgaria, in an effort to determine on what terms he could reestablish friendly relations with the Soviet Union and the Cominform. The emissary, General Koca Popovic, Chief of the Yugoslav General Staff, met Lt. Gen. Georgi Damianov, an influential member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, to explain to the latter the sincere desire of Tito for reconciliation as well as his (Tito's) willingness to follow Stalin's leadership in the future. ~~H~~
 2. During the third week in September, Damianov returned from Moscow with Stalin's terms, and Tito was informed that he could be reinstated in the good graces of the Soviets on the basis of:
 - a. A public confession of ideological errors, and a public declaration of willingness to adhere to Cominform policies in the future.
 - b. A complete purge of all nationalists within the Yugoslav Communist Party.
 - c. The appointment of Kraj Zajevec as new Secretary General of the Yugoslav Communist Party.
 3. Upon receipt of these terms, Tito convened a meeting of the Yugoslav Politburo for 21 September. The terms were discussed and duly rejected on the basis that they involved purging the majority of Tito's closest associates and strongest supporters.
 4. During the course of the Politburo meeting, Moshe Pijade expressed the following views:
 - a. In the case of war, the United States would eventually defeat the Soviet Union.
 - b. The Soviet Union has made a major policy error in emphasizing imperialist expansion at the expense of its position as defender of the working classes. It has, therefore, forfeited throughout the world much of the trust and enthusiasm of the proletariat, which are essential factors to the success of world revolution.

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- c. Of course, the Soviet Union is very strong and probably able to launch an invasion of Europe which would carry its troops to the Atlantic seaboard. If the United States is to stop the Soviet Union, one of the necessary steps is the organization of a Federation of Balkan states. This Federation, consisting of Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia, would have to be armed and supplied by the United States from strong bases in Trieste and Salonika. Under these conditions, the military potential of the Balkan area would be a sufficient threat to the Soviet left flank either to prevent a war or to insure western success if an armed conflict should break out.
- d. Yugoslavia, therefore, should make a real attempt to establish friendly relations with the western nations, and seek to secure as much military and economic aid as possible. In this way Yugoslavia could assure its own ability to carry on "the torch of Communism", whereas Stalin would merely go down in history as one who had attempted to snuff it out.
5. Pijade's views, as detailed above, allegedly received full approval from the members of the Yugoslav Politburo.

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